

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Michael F. Roberts et al.                      Art Unit :  
Serial No. :    Examiner :  
Filed : December 26, 2001  
Title : GUM-MASSAGING ORAL BRUSH

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

On page 1 of the specification, before line 1, insert

--This application is a divisional (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120) of pending U.S. application serial no. 0 09/660,151, filed September 13, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. application serial no. 09/351,588, filed July 12, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,151,745, which is a continuation of U.S. application serial no. 08/730,286, filed November 30, 1996, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,987,688, which is a continuation of 08/554,931, filed November 9, 1995, abandoned.--

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-32 and 38-44.

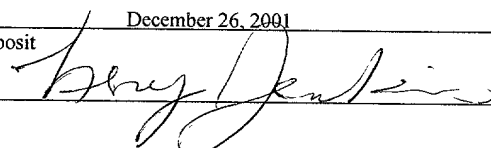
Add claims 45-51.

--45. The method of claim 34 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer has a flexural modulus of at least 5 MPa.

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Date of Deposit December 26, 2001  
Signature   
Leroy Jenkins  
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

46. The method of claim 45 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer has a flexural modulus of from about 5 to 100 MPa.

47. The method of claim 34 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

48. The method of claim 35 further comprising selecting a thermoplastic elastomer as the sheath material.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

50. The method of claim 34 further comprising incorporating an abrasive additive into the thermoplastic elastomer.

51. The method of claim 48 further comprising incorporating an abrasive additive into the thermoplastic elastomer.--

REMARKS

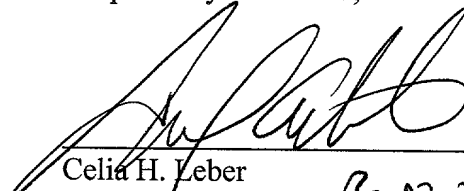
Claims 33-37 and 45-51 are in the case. Claims 33-37 remain unchanged. Claims 1-32 and 38-44 have been cancelled. Claims 45-51 have been added.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicants ask that all claims be examined. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 26, 2001

  
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**Version with markings to show changes made**

In the specification:

On page 1 of the specification, before line 1, insert

--This application is a divisional (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120) of pending U.S. application serial no. 09/660,151, filed September 13, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. application serial no. 09/351,588, filed July 12, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,151,745, which is a continuation of U.S. application serial no. 08/730,286, filed November 30, 1996, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,987,688, which is a continuation of 08/554,931, filed November 9, 1995, abandoned.--

In the claims:

Claim 1-32 and 38-44 has been cancelled.

Add claims 45-51.

--45. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer has a flexural modulus of at least 5 MPa.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer has a flexural modulus of from about 5 to 100 MPa.

47. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

48. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising selecting a thermoplastic elastomer as the sheath material.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block

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copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

50. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising incorporating an abrasive additive into the thermoplastic elastomer.

51. (New) The method of claim 48 further comprising incorporating an abrasive additive into the thermoplastic elastomer.--

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FOOTNOTES